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**From:** Abedin, Huma <AbedinH@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 24, 2012 5:00 PM  
**To:** H  
**Subject:** Fw: UPDATE: Obama says time for killing of Syrian citizens to end (Reuters)

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**From:** OpsNewsTicker  
**Sent:** Friday, February 24, 2012 04:26 PM  
**To:** NEWS-Mahogany; Syria Unrest  
**Cc:** SES-O  
**Subject:** UPDATE: Obama says time for killing of Syrian citizens to end (Reuters)

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - The international community must band together in pressuring Syrian leader Bashar al-Assad to step down, President Barack Obama said on Friday, as rescue workers began evacuating wounded civilians from a besieged Syrian city.

"All of us seeing the terrible pictures coming out of Syria and Homs recently recognize it is absolutely imperative for the international community to rally in sending a clear message to President Assad that it is time for a transition," Obama told reporters.

"It is prime time to stop the killing of Syrian citizens by their own government," he said after a meeting with Danish Prime Minister Helle Thorning-Schmidt of Denmark.

*News Tickers alert senior Department officials to breaking news. This item appears as it did in its original publication and does not contain analysis or commentary by Department sources.*